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DE RUEHBU #0397 0931938  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 031938Z APR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0753  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3470  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0287

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 000397

SIPDIS

IO/RHS FOR OSTERMEIER DRL/MLGA FOR YETKIN  
GENEVA FOR MANSFIELD AND CASSAYRE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [KIRF](#) [UNHRC](#) [AR](#)  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA ABSTAINS AND CONTINUES EVALUATING  
DEFAMATION OF RELIGIONS RESOLUTION

REF: A. SECSTATE 27376  
[1](#)B. YETKEN-MANSFIELD-GOMEZ 04/01/09 E-MAILS

POLOFF recently raised with Argentine MFA Director General for Human Rights Silvia Fernandez the USG's ongoing concern with the "Defamation of Religion" resolution at the UNHRC per reftels. Fernandez recalled that Argentina initially favored the resolution, but as the text evolved, Argentina decided to abstain. She noted that the OAS, Africa, and the EU all expressed concern with the resolution's impact on freedom of expression. She also observed that GRULAC's position on the resolution had not changed. Fernandez stated that Argentina will continue to evaluate the resolution, and indicated that she looked forward to working with the USG on this issue. She added that it would be helpful for countries that do not support the resolution "to make a clearer argument on the resolution's negative impact on freedom of expression."  
WAYNE